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Action

Credentialing and Certificated Assignments Committee

Proposed Amendments to 5 California Code of Regulations §80004 Pertaining to a Foundational-Level General Science Authorization for the Single Subject Teaching Credential

Executive Summary: Commission staff is presenting proposed amendments pertaining to a Foundational-Level General Science Authorization for the Single Subject Teaching Credential.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Commission approve the amendments to 5 California Code of Regulations §80004 for the purpose of beginning the rulemaking file for submission to the Office of Administrative Law and scheduling a public hearing.

Presenter: Terri H. Fesperman, Consultant, Certification, Assignment and Waivers Division

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Grant credentials, certificates and permits as set out in regulation and statute

August 2008

Proposed Amendments to 5 California Code of Regulations §80004 Pertaining to a Foundational-Level General Science Authorization for the Single Subject Teaching Credential

Introduction

Commission staff is presenting amendments to §80004 of 5 California Code of Regulations pertaining to the Single Subject Teaching Credential Authorization to add an authorization for Foundational-Level General Science. Only the section pertaining to the authorization is proposed for amendment as the requirements for a Single Subject Credential are contained in §80413. This revision to §80413 will be presented at a public hearing in August 2008.

Background

At the December 2007 Commission meeting, the possibility of a Foundational-Level General Science credential was introduced. Additional information related to the teaching of science and science credentials was presented at the April and June 2008 Commission meetings.

The proposed regulations will allow for an additional option for employers to assign individuals to teach science. A Foundational-Level General Science credential has the potential to allow additional individuals to earn an authorization to teach general science and reduce the number of individuals on waivers, teaching permits and local teaching assignment options. The proposed regulations add a Foundational-Level General Science authorization as a subject for a single subject credential, however individuals with a single subject teaching credential in a different subject (mathematics, social science, English, art, etc.) would be able to add the authorization to their credential. An individual with a multiple subject credential would be able to earn a single subject credential in Foundational-Level General Science with verification of subject matter and a methodology class. Furthermore, the Foundational-Level General Science credential is a pathway to earn a full science authorization in Science: Biological Science, Chemistry, Geosciences and Physics.

The new authorization would allow for mobility for the self-contained elementary level teacher to serve in a middle or high school departmentalized level assignment as well as the middle and high school departmentalized level teacher in one subject to earn an additional authorization to expand their employability.

The holder of a Foundational-Level General Science credential would be authorized to teach the content area of general or introductory science in grades preschool, K - 12 and adults, but not departmentalized Biology, Chemistry, Geosciences or Physics courses. In addition, the holder would be authorized to teach integrated science in grades preschool and K - 8. Teachers who are credentialed via this route and who teach courses within this authorization would be considered "Highly Qualified" for the purpose of No Child Left Behind as they would have been required to demonstrate subject matter competence through examination or an approved program.

Proposed Amendments to Regulations

§80004 (d) (1) (A), (B) and (C): The science content areas authorized for service in grades preschool, K-12 and adults are added.

§80004 (d) (2) (A): The science content areas authorized for service in grades preschool and K-8 are listed.

Next Steps

The regulations will appear next at a public hearing following the required 45-day response period.

Title 5 Section 80004 Pertaining to the Single Subject Teaching Credential Authorization

Section 80004. Single Subject Teaching Credential Authorization for Service.

- (a) The Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach the subject area(s) listed on the document in grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults.
- (b) The holder of a Single Subject Teaching Credential in the following subject areas is authorized to teach health science:
 - (1) Health Science,
 - (2) Life Science, and
 - (3) Physical Education if the document was initially issued prior to January 1, 1981.
- (c) The holder of a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Agriculture, Business, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, or Industrial and Technology Education is authorized to teach the subject area listed on the document in classes designated as technical, trade, or vocational by the employing agency.
- (d) The holder of a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Foundational-Level General Science authorizes the holder to provide the services described below in the following grade levels.
 - (1) Grades twelve and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults:
 - (A) Introductory and general science.
 - (B) Introductory life science, and
 - (C) Introductory physical science.
 - (2) Grades preschool, and kindergarten through eight:
 - (A) Integrated science.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 44225(e), Education Code. Reference: Sections 44225(q) and 44256, Education Code.